

Ewa Dynarowicz

Portretten en een oude droom van Kader Abdolah: Een etnisch gekleurde autobiografie en de ethische dimensie van het identiteitsvormingsproces

Two problems are central to Kader Abdolah's *Portretten en een oude droom* [*Portraits and an Ancient Dream*]: firstly, his Persian background and the problem of migration, secondly coping with a sense of guilt. This article examines the novel's autobiographical character as reflecting upon the identity-forming process of an emigrant. It especially focuses on narrative techniques used to depict the complexity of this process and on the role of the Other in creating one's self-image. The second section of the article is devoted to the ethical dimension of a particular identity and the problem of reconciliation with oneself. The reading strategy applied to analyse this aspect of Abdolah's novel takes the philosophy of Paul Ricoeur as presented in *Soi-même comme un autre* as a central point of departure.